

If ever a detailed Environmental Impact Statement were called for, this is it. An experiment of the magnitude of the Divine Strake bombing is frightening and unnecessary and should at the very least receive adequate study before declaring a Finding of No Significant Impact based on an Environmental Assessment (EA).

If its purpose is as was earlier stated, to simulate blasts of bunker-busting nuclear bombs, it is in violation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

As it is, the Environmental Assessment is superficial in some areas. For example, the discussion of effects on threatened or endangered species is sketchy. It does note that destruction of other animals and their habitats will occur, but cavalierly dismisses this destruction as insignificant.

I am reminded of the Utah sheep deaths in the 50's, when our government denied responsibility and promised that it would not happen again.

As admitted in at least one version of this EA, there is a "possibility" of the existing radioactive soil being disturbed and being blown about by an unpredictable wind. (I would say it's more of a certainty than a possibility. This toxic soil will certainly be blown many thousand feet in the air.) This EA concludes that this contaminated radioactive soil will be of such a low level of radioactivity as to cause no health or safety impacts beyond the blast site. However, there is no safe level of ionizing radiation. There are only varying levels of risk.

An old definition of "strake" is "stretch," and this is appropriate, for it is a stretch of public credulity to say that this bomb is necessary or safe.

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